

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A method, comprising:
  - 2 receiving a request for data from a requesting system, the requesting
  - 3 system having a corresponding address;
  - 4 selecting one of a plurality of edge servers having the requested data, said
  - 5 selecting being based on the requesting system's address; and
  - 6 causing the requested data to be sent from a selected edge server.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein said selecting an edge server having the
  - 2 requested data based on the requesting system's address comprises
  - 3 looking up the address in a site database having a predetermined list of
  - 4 addresses each corresponding to an edge server that is the nearest
  - 5 streaming server to a requesting system corresponding to a given
  - 6 address, and selecting an edge server corresponding to the address.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein said selecting an edge server having the
  - 2 requested data based on the requesting system's address comprises
  - 3 looking up the address in a site database having a predetermined list of
  - 4 CIDR (Classless Inter-Domain Routing) blocks each corresponding to an
  - 5 edge server that is the nearest streaming server to a requesting system
  - 6 corresponding to a given address, and each CIDR block corresponding to
  - 7 a group of addresses, and selecting an edge server corresponding to the
  - 8 CIDR block in which the address belongs.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the address comprises an IP (Internet
  - 2 Protocol) address.
- 1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein said causing the requested data to be
  - 2 sent from the selected edge server comprises redirecting the requesting
  - 3 system to the selected edge server.
- 1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein said request for data comprises a request

2 for media data.

1 7. The method of claim 6, wherein said request for media data comprises a  
2 request for live media data.

1 8. The method of claim 7 wherein said causing the requested data to be sent  
2 from a selected edge server comprises:

3 connecting the selected edge server to an origin server receiving the live  
4 media data; and

5 sending the live media data from the origin server to the selected edge  
6 server.

1 9. A method comprising:

2 receiving a request for data from a requesting system, the requesting  
3 system having a corresponding address;

4 looking up the address on a site database, the database having  
5 predetermined addresses each corresponding to an edge server  
6 that is the nearest streaming server to the requesting system  
7 corresponding to the address; and

8 if the address exists on the site database, causing the requested data to  
9 be sent from the edge server corresponding to the address of the  
10 requesting system.

1 10. The method of claim 9, additionally comprising if the address doesn't exist  
2 on the database, causing the requested data to be sent from a  
3 deployment server to the requesting system, the deployment server being  
4 selected based on a non-address based protocol.

1 11. The method of claim 9, wherein said causing the requested data to be  
2 sent from the selected edge server comprises redirecting the requesting  
3 system to the selected edge server.

1 12. The method of claim 11, wherein said redirecting the requesting system to  
2 the selected edge server comprises sending location information to the  
3 requesting system, the location information comprising the address of the  
4 selected edge server and the location of the requested data on the  
5 selected edge server.

1 13. The method of claim 9, wherein the predetermined addresses are in CIDR  
2 (Classless Inter-Domain Routing) block notation, and each CIDR block  
3 corresponds to an edge server that is the nearest streaming server to a  
4 requesting system corresponding to each address of the CIDR block.

1 14. A machine-readable medium having stored thereon data representing  
2 sequences of instructions, the sequences of instructions which, when  
3 executed by a processor, cause the processor to:  
4 receive a request for data from a requesting system, the requesting  
5 system having a corresponding address;  
6 select one of a plurality of edge servers having the requested data, said  
7 selecting being based on the requesting system's address; and  
8 cause the requested data to be sent from a selected edge server.

1 15. The machine-readable medium of claim 14, wherein the processor selects  
2 an edge server having the requested data based on the requesting  
3 system's address by looking up the address in a site database having a  
4 predetermined list of addresses each corresponding to an edge server  
5 that is the nearest streaming server to a requesting system corresponding  
6 to a given address, and by selecting an edge server corresponding to the  
7 address.

1 16. The machine-readable medium of claim 14, wherein the address  
2 comprises an IP (Internet Protocol) address.

1 17. An apparatus comprising:

2 at least one processor; and

3 a machine-readable medium having instructions encoded thereon, which  
4 when executed by the processor, are capable of directing the  
5 processor to:

6 receive a request for data from a requesting system, the requesting  
7 system having a corresponding address;

8 select one of a plurality of edge servers having the requested data,  
9 said selecting being based on the requesting system's  
10 address; and

11 cause the requested data to be sent from a selected edge server.

1 18. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the processor selects an edge server  
2 having the requested data based on the requesting system's address by  
3 looking up the address in a site database having a predetermined list of  
4 addresses each corresponding to an edge server that is the nearest  
5 streaming server to a requesting system corresponding to a given  
6 address, and by selecting an edge server corresponding to the address.

1 19. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the processor selects an edge server  
2 having the requested data based on the requesting system's address by  
3 looking up the address in a site database having a predetermined list of  
4 CIDR (Classless Inter-Domain Routing) blocks each corresponding to an  
5 edge server that is the nearest streaming server to a requesting system  
6 corresponding to a given address, and each CIDR block corresponding to  
7 a group of addresses, and by selecting an edge server corresponding to  
8 the CIDR block in which the address belongs.

1 20. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the address comprises an IP (Internet  
2 Protocol) address.

1 21. An apparatus comprising:

2 means for receiving a request for data from a requesting system, the  
3 requesting system having a corresponding address;

4 means for selecting one of a plurality of edge servers having the  
5 requested data, said selecting being based on the requesting  
6 system's address; and

7 means for causing the requested data to be sent from a selected edge  
8 server.

1 22. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein said means for selecting an edge  
2 server having the requested data based on the requesting system's  
3 address comprises means for looking up the address in a site database  
4 having a predetermined list of addresses each corresponding to an edge  
5 server that is the nearest streaming server to a requesting system  
6 corresponding to a given address, and means for selecting an edge server  
7 corresponding to the address.

1 23. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the address comprises an IP (Internet  
2 Protocol) address.

1 24. An apparatus comprising:

2 a site database having predetermined addresses each corresponding to  
3 an edge server that is the nearest edge server to a requesting  
4 system corresponding to a given address; and

5 a redirection server coupled to the site database to:

6 lookup an address on the site database, the address corresponding

7 to a requesting system from which a request for data is  
8 received; and

9 cause requested data to be sent from an edge server  
10 corresponding to an address of a requesting system.

1 25. The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the predetermined addresses are in  
2 CIDR (Classless Inter-Domain Routing) block notation, and each CIDR  
3 block corresponds to an edge server that is the nearest streaming server  
4 to a requesting system corresponding to addresses of a given CIDR block.

1 26. The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the address comprises an IP (Internet  
2 Protocol) address.

1 27. A system comprising:  
2 a requesting system to request data, the requesting system having a  
3 corresponding address;  
4 an operations center coupled to the requesting system to handle requests  
5 from the requesting system, the operations center having:  
6 a site database having a predetermined a list of addresses each  
7 corresponding to an edge server that is the nearest edge  
8 server to a requesting system corresponding to a given  
9 address; and  
10 a redirection module to cause requested data to be sent from an  
11 edge server corresponding to the requesting system's  
12 address to the requesting system; and  
13 one or more edger servers to send data to the requesting system.

- 1 28. The system of claim 27, wherein said requesting system comprises a  
2 viewer, and said redirection module causes requested data to be sent  
3 from an edge server to a requesting system comprises initiating a dialog  
4 session between the viewer and the edge server.
- 1 29. The system of claim 27, wherein the address comprises an IP (Internet  
2 Protocol) address.